

For immediate release

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Achieving collaboration through Riverlink

Integrated research, development and extension are essential factors in the success of advancing Australian horticultural industries.

Established in 1991, Riverlink is a collaborative research network situated in the Sunraysia-Riverland region. The network has been created to aid future direction and ensure progressive development in horticulture.

The network is implemented by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), Victorian Department of Primary Industries (Vic DPI), CSIRO Plant Industry, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA). Currently 200 researchers and extension officers contribute to Riverlink.

Recently appointed Riverlink Communication and Development Officer, Lee Byrne said, "The reason Riverlink works is because the research staff and government agencies are committed to the Sunraysia-Riverland horticultural industries and aim to achieve positive outcomes for the betterment of these industries."

Acknowledgments for Riverlink horticultural projects have been received from a range of individuals and organisations. The unique network of research agencies provides opportunities for resource and knowledge sharing in the regional horticultural industries and to ensure funding is directed to appropriate projects, without overlap occurring.

"Riverlink is a culmination of many people working towards achieving beneficial horticulture project outcomes and utilising resources in the most efficient manner," Ms Byrne said.

Riverlink produces a quarterly newsletter, facilitates annual industry planning forums and participates in industry discussion to promote regional research, report project outcomes and assist in the identification of priority issues.

Ms Byrne urged horticulturalists to become a part of the Riverlink network, "Growers, industry and private providers are encouraged to utilise these communication resources to gain an insight into project outcomes and contribute to the development of collaborative horticulture research in the Sunraysia-Riverland region."

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